THE NATIONAL ERA IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY, ON SEVENTH STREET, OPPOSITE ODD FELLOWS' HALL TERMS.

Two dollars per annum, payable in advance.

Advertisements not exceeding ten lines inserted three five cents.

of the paper or for publication, should be addressed to G. BAILEY, Washington, D. C.

BUELL & BLANCHARD, PRINTERS,

WASHINGTON, D. C. For the National Era.

STORY OF A LIFE. BY H. L. CHAPTER I .- A Family Group:

In the early part of a lovely June day, some half century since, might have been seen standhalf century since, might have been seen standing on a smooth lawn, fronting a large, irregular old mansion, a group of four sisters—not quite old enough to be coneidered young ladies, nor yet so young as to be altogether regarded as children. In the family they were called "the girls"—a brother being the dividing line between them and the three elder sisters of the household; in their vicinity, three little lads were trundling hoops and flying kites, animated in their sports by the notice of their father. who was watching them from the window of his study with a beaming smile of encouragement upon his benevolent countenance.

"Look, papa—look," exclaimed the delighted boys, as the kite soared far above the roof of the venerable old building, "it almost

touches the clouds.' The girls, who had been conversing in an under-tone, now joined their brothers, and were about mingling in their sport, when a young officer, dismounting at the gateway, walked up the long avenue, and stood upon the lawn be-side the group. Politely bowing, he inquired for Miss Elizabeth, and the eldest of the four proceeded with him toward the house. Ere they reached it, however, she stopped, and say-ing, "There is my sister," excused herself, and joined the circle on the lawn.

Elizabeth sat in a deep window of the drawing-room. A scarlet riding-habit, closely buting-room. A scarlet riding-habit, closely but-toned in front, displayed her superb figure to the greatest advantage—she was tall, but its long, graceful folds made her height appear greater than it really was. Her fair, white hand rested upon the head of a large dog, who was looking up into her face with an almost human expression of love, in return for her gentle caress. In her countenance was some-thing of the benign expression of her father's mellowed into an angelic sweetness. It rested there like an unshadowed moonlight; and if it was an indication of the spirit within, one might almost have deemed a sweet Sabbath of

You see I am prompt to our appointment, and led the way to the hall door, where a servant held both horses ready for them to mount vant held both horses ready for them to mount. The morning was delicious—the dews, scarcely yet exhaled by the sun, rested in glittering drops on every leaf and blade of grass, sparkling among the hawthorn hedges like scattered sprays of diamond.

"Oh, it is a spicy morning," said Elizabeth, as she urged her horse into a dashing canter; "every blossom is sending up an incense of praise."

"The morning shines, and the fresh field Calls us—we lose the prime, to mark host spring Our tended plants—how blows the citron grove, What drops the morn, and what the balmy reed How nature paints her colors—how the bee Sits on the bloom, extracting liquid sweet."

"The quotation is appropriate, and we should render our tribute of thanks to the poet, for thus giving language to the feelings which every grateful heart must experience in the possession of such universal blessings as light, sun-shine, and air. Imagine a world of darkness, a world of clouds—nay," said she, kindling with the picture her fancy had created, "rather let. us dwell upon that glorious revelation of God's power. When He said, 'Let there be light!' what a golden flood of rays must have leaped forth at this word of command, illumiating a newly-formed universe!

Lieutenant Aylesworth listened admiringly to the enraptured girl; but, skeptical in his own religious belief, did not pursue the conversation. He unfolded enough, however, in his casual remarks, to induce her to entertain the opinion that his circumstance. that his views were at variance with her own and this led her into a train of thought, the result of which had an important influence on her after-life. The diversified scenery, the freshness of the morning, and the exhilarating motion of the well-trained horses, lent a charm to these dashing rides, long remembered by the lovely sisters, and were recalled with vivid pleas-ure when the lapse of years and the changes which time unerringly brings, separated them from each other. It would be a pleasant task to trace the history and fortunes of each of the daughters descended from the ancient family of the Gournays, in Normandy. Like the seven Pleiades, they shone in a unity of brightness, rich in attractions. Individually they possessed talent and originality, to which was added a peculiar loveliness of personal appearance, and a depth and warmth of affection, blended with gentle dignity and refinement. So far, they were similar in the general outlines of character only; for as womanhood developed the pe-culiar traits of each, and circumstances called their natural powers into action, great individ-uality was discernible in several of the sisters. Elizabeth displayed this most conspicuously; and with her, therefore, our story will have most to do. It is no fiction. This shrinking, timid girl was moulded into the high-souled and fear-less woman; this light-hearted, careless child became a finely-tempered instrument, in the hands of her Creator, for the benefit of the most quick of comprehension, her skill in adapting herself to the mental capacities of those around her, betrayed the existence of that uncommon penetration for which she was afterwards so

The evening of the day upon which this lovely family group is introduced to the reader, was to be closed by a large party at the Hall. Here Elizabeth shone conspicuously, entering with zest into all the amusements; she was the magnet of attraction. Her tall, graceful figure was peculiarly fitted for dancing; and as she moved with a queenly step to and fro, she looked almost regal in her beauty.

Prince William Frederick, afterwards Duke of Gracetter, was then questioned at Normal.

of Goucester, was then quartered at Norwich, and was sometimes a guest at the old mansion. and was sometimes a guest at the old mansion. On these occasions, the fair sisterhood unanimously accorded to Elizabeth the honor of entertaining the royal visiter; and many were the compliments bestowed upon the captivating manners and winning address with which she acquitted herself of the unsought distinction. But her melodious voice was one of her greatest charms. Thrillingly sweet it was to listen to the warblings which, bird-like, she poured out—the joyous outhurst of a young heart's out—the joyous outburst of a young heart's gushing gladness, yet a faint prelude to that glorious out-pouring of musical deeds, which made her life harmonious in its gradations of

ten, "I have set my heart on attending the oratorio to-night; the Prince is to be there; it will be a grand sight, and there will be the finest music; but if my father does not like me to go, much as I wish it, I will give it up with pleasure, if it be in my power, without murmuring." Thus early she accustomed herself to regard the wishes of others; yet, with the gentlest deference to those she loved, she united a strong self-will and great determination. For her mother she had displayed an intensity of affection seldom witnessed in one so young; and when she died, a few years before this time, her deep and heartfelt grief was controlled, only to be more keenly experienced in her hours of solitude. A dark cloud hung over the spot for a long time after this most afflicting event. But the buoyant hearts of the young are ever elastic, and time mellowed the poigare ever elastic and time mellowed the poig-nancy of their sorrow. "The cloud is over us," said one of the sisters, "but it has a silver lining." And as days and weeks went by, so much of happiness was yet in store for the be-reaved ones, that they gradually ceased to weep, yet never forgot the impression left by her

the oversight of this numerous family; she was a remarkable woman, almost masculine-looking, for she was nearly six feet in height; her mind seemed to partake of the strength and power of her physical development—its propor-tions were as grand and majestic as those of her firmly-knit person, but there was a grace rarely equalled in both. Elizabeth's figure was a beautiful delineation of curved lines— willowy, yielding, yet rounded into perfect symmetry. Catharine's was equally symmetrical, but conveyed an idea of strength and massiveness. One was as a beautiful temple the eye rested upon with exquisite delight—the other, a lofty structure, regarded with sensations almost amounting to awe. Both charmed, but in different ways. The younger sisters, the talented brother, the cluster of girls, and the little lads, all looked up to Catharine with a feeling of reverence and veneration; and the father, in losing her, would have felt that again his household had lost its mistress. Her intellect was comprehensive and powerful—well calculated to understand the diversities of disposition by which she was surrounded, and eminently fitted for their guidance. Eager for self-improvement, and embracing every opportunity for mental cultivation, she communicated a degree of her own enthusiasm to those around

Upon the oldest sister, Catharine, devolved

as their thoughts expanded by the contempla-tion of the infinite power of the Creator, he would, by the suggestion of some sublime pas-sage of Holy Writ, teach them how the earth sage of Holy Writ, teach them how the earth sang his praise and the heavens declared his glory. Knowledge was in this manner made so attractive, that it was sought for its own sake; and with pursuits so congenial and employments so varied, it is no wonder Elizabeth thought for a time this world almost enough to satisfy the cravings of an immortal nature. But a period was coming, when a deeper and broader view of her own responsibility as au individual was to be opened to her understanding. This was through the medium of a mine

ing. This was through the medium of a min-ister of that sect in the principles of which she had been educated.

One Sabbath morning the seven sisters sat in a row, as was their usual habit, under the gallery in the quaint and antique old meeting-house. Frequently had Elizabeth sat there be-

bidden her good bye! With her cousin Elizabeth remained some

regard and attention. During one of these visits, as is often the case in social gatherings among the Quakers, a silence solemn and profound succeeded the desultory conversation of the supper table. It was broken in upon by the voice of a woman addressing the company with great feeling, on the concerns of the soul; then turning to Elizabeth, she said—"And thou shalt be a light to the blind, speech to the

great and important work. She pondered long and deeply upon this; her heart expanded and her whole being seemed to partake of the ex-altation of her thoughts. Her sweet face was irradiated, and her manner chastened and dig-

kerchief usually worn. Many a bitter struggle these sacrifices cost her: but to her is was the way of the Cross; and however inexpedient it may have appeared to others, it was perhaps the only way by which she could determinately renounce the world—In the review of this period of her life in after years, she had reason to believe that her sphere of usefulness, as a woman, had been greatly enlarged, by adhering written, "Went to meeting in the evening. I have not enough eloquence to describe the sermon—it was very affecting, from Revelations.
— explained his text beautifully and awfully—most awfully, I felt it to be. He next described the beauty of religion and the spirit of prayer. He said the Dairt and these whealth is the property of the service of the scribed the beauty of religion and the spirit of prayer. He said the Deist, and those who did not feel devotion, looked at nature, admired the thunder, the lightning, and earthquake, as curiosities; but looked not through them up to nature's God. How welk he hit the state I have been in." This was the same Quaker preacher who had before, as it were, stricken the rocky heart, and opened the fountain of her tears. And she felt again that his ministry was to her—that she was not henceforth to live for herself.

kingly in contrast with her lemme to the fire-side, but now, instead of prompting amusement and gaiety, although in this she never interfered with the enjoyments of her sisters, she was ever devising some plan for relieving the poor, or visiting the sick; and her ever-indulgent parent, while furnishing the means, often accompanied the gift with the parental benediction. Even the lofty and self-sustained Catharine sought her co-operation in her own benevolent enterprises. Her manly brother

With such rich and varied gifts, with bright talents and great personal attractions, it is not to be supposed the fair sisterhood remained un-sought and unadmired by the other sex. This was far from the case. Eastham was often the resort of parties from miles around; and the officers of Prince William's regiment, and frequently the Prince himself, were among the guests. Often, when the evenings were calm and moonlit, the spacious lawn would be the drawing-room chosen for the occasion, and Elizabeth, in her regal beauty, would charm

all by her entire unconsciousness of it.

Notwithstanding the lavish admiration se freely bestowed upon the sisters, Elizabeth's heart remained untouched till about the period when she became a Quakeress. And even then, we find her looking back to the prophecy then, we find her looking back to the prophecy of the white-haired old patriarch, and praying that if her duty ever led her from her family, it might be in a single life. Her affections, however, triumphed, and although her timid nature shrank for a time from encountering the responsibility, she at length yielded her hand to him in whom her heart's wealth had

hand to him in whom her heart's wealth had long been garnered. He was in affluent circumstances, of irreproachable integrity, and her friends and family highly approved her choice. All looked joyous before her.

Ere long she left her happy home; and, as her father gave her his blessing, and her sisters stood weeping around her, she felt, in the keenness of parting, that even life's brightest hours were checkered by shadows. Yet she turned with a full and loving heart to her cherished friend, now her husband, and with the words "faithful unto death" upon her lips, wept the adieus she could not speak. To lips, wept the adieus she could not speak. To her new home we will follow her. TO BE CONTINUED.

From the N. Y. Evening Post. SONG OF THE NORTH WIND.

The following lines are the wonderful production of young lady of Boston, only fifteen years of age. I come from the fields of the frozen North. O'er the waste of the trackless sea, Where the winter sun looks wearily forth,

And yielded his strength to me; As I mount o'er the hills and gather my might, With the roar of the Hurricane. Loud sweeping in wrath, by day and night. Over the ice-bound main.

Where the Boreal lightnings play, O'er the frowning peaks of glaciers piled, I wend my stormy way; Where the lightest touch of my blasting breath Plays over the withered branch. And the eagle screams from his cyry of death.

In the fearful avalanche.

From the awful steppes of the Seythian wild,

On the lofty heights of the Daurian chain, I sit on my regal throne, Where my snowy turrets look out o'er the main. On the waste of the Arctic zone; lone-alone-in my might I dwell,

Where a human voice ne'er broke the spell

Where a human foot ne'er trod,

Lying bound o'er the icy sod. I breathe in my wrath o'er the flaming forge Where the laboring Cyclops dwelt,

Till the fiery arm of Vulcan yields To the might of my threatening roar, And the red flames flow o'er the blooming fields And the light of the sanded shore.

Away through the hollow caves I sweep Where the giant arm of Thor Shakes his gleaming spear o'er the raging deep, Then I blow my born as the thunder Through the depths of the lurid sky. And the wild waves foam, and the sea-bell tolls

To my voice as it passes by.

In the lonely halls where Odin dwells. In his palace of kingly might, I am free from the chain of his Runic spells, And revel by day and night; I sit at the board where heroes fell, Where their blood flowed like the wave,

And the white spears clashed with the wild war yell, 'Neath the snowy architrave! Then away I bound from the Halls of Death. Where the beautiful Lena flows,

And wave the wand of my jagged breath O'er its banks of crested snows; And lo! the pillar tall and fair, With many a quaint device, Springs up in the grace of its beauty rare-

Oh, the earth is calm in its silent rest, When the south wind, soft and free, Floats up like a cloud from the vineyards blest Of the glowing Araby; In the breath of the perfumed shore; And the dallying breeze, where their waters lave Keeps time to the golden oar.

The earth is fair where the west wind blows. When the wearied birds are mute; And it sighs through the trees at evening's close, To the tone of a minstrel's lute; When the rays of the sun from his purple dome O'er the sunny south are shed. And the peasant brings to his cottage home

The vintage ripe and red. But the earth is dark where my foot has trod, I twine no flowery wreath; In the track of my path lies a blasted sod, And the waste of a barren heath;

O'er the yellow harvest of waving grain In my giant strength I ride, And blackened and sere it lies dead on the plain. In the wealth of its golden pride.

When the south wind fills his sail, And the good ship flies o'er the waters bright To the breath of the favoring gale. But his song shall be of a weltering surge, Of waves dashed mountain high, When I chant o'er the ship its deathly dirge To a moonless sea and sky.

When the rattling hall o'er the ley shroud, And the wreck of a drifting mast, Is poured o'er the deep from the angry cloud, In the torrents thick and fast; When the air-spirits shrick thro' the And the water fiends below Bear away to their home the mariner's form, Through the blackened waters flow.

Then, crowned with my shadowy laurels, I flee To my home on the snow-ridged penk, As the engle returns to his rock o'er the sea With the prey in his blood-crested beak; The requiem bell from the coast is rung,
As I sweep o'er the ocean's bed, And I hear the low chant by the choristers sung

And my starry spears grow dim-Till the harvest is gone from the sunny glade Where floated the reaper's hymn-Till the winter's sun looks wearily forth, And yieldeth his strength to me-Then I sweep again from the frozen North, O'er the waste of the trackless sea.

· For the rest of the sainted dead.

Boston, November, 1851.

glashing gladnes, yet a faint prelude to that glorious out-pouring of musical deeds, which made her life harmonious in its gradations of goodness.

It may be a surprise to know that the father of these children was a Quaker, belonging to the sect so rigid in its dissipline against forms. But so it was; yet the exet so rigid in its dissipline against forms. But was it was; yet the expanded intellect and chird ownit to omit the observance of its peculiarities, which is the corner-stone of all true religion, which is the corner-stone of all true religion, and duetts with which they often enlivened. COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION .- A French phi-

Extract of a Speech in the House of Representa-tives, by Mr. FOWLER, of Massachusetts, on the *31st of March.

The framers of the Constitution were anti slavery men. They looked and labored for a speedy annihilation of a system of bondage speedy annihilation of a system which they considered as an unmitigated curse which they considered as an unmitigated curse which their sentiupon the nation. They expressed their senti-ments and purposes in the first sentence of the Constitution. Justice and liberty for all, were the paramount ends of that instrument. They provided for the termination of the slave trade at the end of twenty years; which they ex-pected would be the death-blow of the cruel ystem of which it was then the main support. they adapted the clause for the recovery of They adapted the clause for the recovery of fugitives to a state of universal freedom. The fair interpretation of the proceedings of those venerable men is, that each State should provide for the early extinction of slavery within its borders; that the foreign slave trade should cease in 1808; that soon thereafter slavery should be abolished; and that slavery should never enter the Territories nor extend beyond the States in which it then existed. That this was the full understanding of all concerned, the history of those times, as well as the Constitution itself, abundantly proves. The framers of the Constitution had no thought of the perpetuity of slavery. In providing for the extradition of fugitives, they took care to use language which applies to apprentices, and will be appropriate when slavery shall be done away. The Constitution, in its present form, would never have been adopted if the people had dreamed that in this free Republic a single slave would. gle slave would have been found upon its soil The Fugitive Law is both unwise and unjust

It is designed to fasten the responsibility of slavery upon the whole country, and thus to give it nationality. And the measure is as objectionable in its details as in its designs. It aims a fatal blow at some of the sacred defences of personal liberty. It denies to the alleged fugitive the right of trial by jury—a right guarantied to all persons by the Constitution. It destroys the value of the legal presumption that every person under this Government is a freeman till he is proved to be a slave. It surfreeman till he is proved to be a slave. It sur-renders the victim upon a mere affidavit of the claimant. It clothes a petty officer with the most important judicial power ever exercised by man—the power of deciding the question of personal liberty; and it requires him to pro-ceed "summarily," and it may be in a corner, and not in open daylight. It imposes fines and imprisonment upon all who feed him or give him a cup of cold water, or in any way show him sympathy or kindness. It requires every him sympathy or kindness. It requires every freeman in the nation to aid in seizing and binding his unoffending brother man, and to sustain what he knows to be the most cruel system of oppression on the face of the globe. Search the records of Christendom, you cannot find another law so najust in its provis-

The Constitution exercises a watchful guardianship in behalf of all persons who have a question in controversy before our judicial tribunals, whether it be a question of property or a question of personal liberty. If a question at common law, involving property to the amount of twenty dollars, be put upon trial, it must be settled by a jury. If a person be charged with folony, he cannot be held to answer until the grand inquest have found a bill against him; nor can any person be put upon trial for crime except before his peers—a jury of twelve impartial men. Now, the Fugitive Law attempts to abrogate these fundamental principles, guar-antied by the Constitution. It ought, forth-

details.

The finality of the Compromise! Our ears are saluted with the expression almost daily How do the advocates of slavery understand this language? Do they mean that there is to be no more slave territory annexed to this country? Nothing like it. When they are pre try? Nothing like it. When they are pre-pared for the acquisition of territory, the ac-quisition will be made, unless defeated by the timely remonstrances of the friends of liberty and Union. Those who so loudly proclaim the finality of the Compromise, look beyond the Fugitive Law. With them this law is a secondary matter. They have their eyes chiefly on the declaration that hereafter new States may come into the Union with Constitutions susthe area of slavery is their great point in the Compromise. The division of California for the purpose of making a slave State; the dismemberment of the adjacent provinces of New Mexico; the annexation of Cuba; these are the great ulterior measures. These measures are to be accomplished, first by the re-endorsement of the Compromise, and secondly, by securing a Federal Executive that will use the immense patronage of the Government to carry out this endorsement. Such is the interpretation that this term finality will ultimately develop. It will presently be claimed, that all discussions of the evils and the wrongs of slavery, here and

elsewhere, are to cease.

And will the friends of national freedom and impartial justice be silent? No, sir; they will never consent to be tongue-tied touching a sysnever consent to be tongue-tied touching a system which, says Professor Stuart, "Degrades men, made in the image of their God and Redemer, into brutes, beasts, or, (which makes them still lower,) converts them into mere goods and chattels." You may endorse and re-endorse the Compromise every session, and every day of every session, and still the people will think, and they will speak their thoughts; and, when the time comes, they will demand a repeal or modification, and what they require will be done. At length, freedom and justice will triumph. Of the ultimate issue I have no will triumph. Of the ultimate issue I have no doubt. I know not what may intervene; but I know that God is just, and that he reigns on earth and in heaven. I know that he is on the side of liberty and right—that none can stay the hand of his providences—that American slavery is against his law, and against every moral attribute of his holy character; and I am sure that, under his controlling providence, it cannot long stand against the public opinion of the nations—against the civilization, the common sense, the political economy, the moral principles of mankind. You had better look the subject in the face now, than to wait will there are five, ten twenty millions of slaves. upon the soil, sending up their cries to Heaven for the interposition of Divine justice. You cannot—no, you cannot hinder the march of human freedom. As well might you attempt to stay the stars in their course. Make the trial. Endorse and re-endorse the attempt. The Great-Endorse and re-endorse the attempt. The Greater and Lesser Bear, the Crab, the Lion, the Twins, and all that twinkling company, will pursue their stately and steady course. The dial of human progress is not moving backward. Man, indeed, dies; generations pass away—but truth lives. The principles of righteousness are immortal. Light is too widely diffused for the long-continued reign of oppression; and the light now sending up its beams is the light of the morning. Dark as the doon of the oppressed now seems, the time the doorn of the oppressed now seems, the time is not distant when the claims of humanity

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The subject of our foreign policy is assuming an aspect of unwonted interest, because of the power which our commanding influence enables us to wield, and because of the masses, among all nations, who are struggling for their rights. In this attitude of things, the question of intervention or non-intervention is a very grave question, and should be gravely consider-ed. After much deliberation, I see no sufficient reason for an essential change of our foreign policy. In my humble judgment, our true doc-trine is yet, as hitherto, honest friendships with all nations, "entangling alliances with none." Adhering to this doctrine, I would, neverthe-

give free utterance to our sentiments touching the rights of man; and no nation, however connected with us by treaty or by commercial re-lations, can reasonably take offence. Our neutral relations must be observed in good faith; but we may, at the same time, proclaim with-out restraint our fixed purpose to form our own mittees during the morning hour; which being opinions of the civil equality and inalienable rights of mankind, and to promulgate these opinions freely and fearlessly. I would give most unrestrained utterance to our great principles of constitutional liberty. I would use every fit opportunity to diffuse everywhere, as on the wings of the wind, a knowledge of our sensentiments and sympathies. These sentiments are fast gaining a glorious ascendency in both hemispheres; and this Government and this na-tion have a prominent part to act in urging forward this ascendency until it shall pervade the entire world. We are justified-nay, more, as true friends of humanity, it is demanded of us— to declare that every nation has a right to establish such form of government as it chooses; and that no nation has a legal or moral right to interfere with the domestic affairs of another people. This is the law of nations as laid down by the best authorities, and recognised by the civilized world. The intervention of Russia in the affairs of Hungary, and of France in those of Italy, was a palpable violation of this law-the most important and the most sacred of the laws of nations. I protest against this violation, and arraign the despots of those empires at the bar of the public justice of the world. I protest, and I call upon all the functionaries of this Government, and upon all civilized men.

to protest against these and all other violations of natural right and national law.

But the intervention which I advocate is neither belligerent nor officious; it is the intervention of the principles of truth and justice— principles which I trust are hereafter to gov-ern the world, and secure the permanent welfare of our race. If military power may be employed in repelling invasion—in defending our soil against foreign aggression, and maintaining law, order, and domestic quiet-it is a power that should never be exercised in pro-mulgating the principles and blessings of lib-

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS. THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS-FIRST SESSION.

. TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

The Chair laid before the Senate a comm nication from the Navy Department, in reply to a resolution calling for his opinion as to the expediency of the reconnoissance of the Chinese seas, &c. The Secretary thinks the United States vessels could perform the work, and that t would be of grent benefit to the country.

The Chair also laid before the Senate unication relative to depots for gunpow

Mr. Douglas presented the petition of Henry O'Reilly, praying that the Government would so station its military posts on the route as to protect a line of telegraph he promises to con-struct from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean. He asks no grant of either land or money. All he desires is protection to the telegraph when constructed. Mr. Wade presented the petition of citizens

of Ohio, praying that the Wheeling bridge be protected

Mr. Borland introduced a bill to establish Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to New Orleans.

Mr. Rhett offered a resolution directing an inquiry as to the propriety of increasing the salary of the United States Judge of South Car-

olina. Agreed to.

A resolution calling for information as to the balance of the indemnity due to the friendly Creek Indians, and the names and number of claimants, was agreed to.

agreed to, directing the Secretary of the Interior to inform the Senate what debts have been contracted by the Indian agents in California, for which the Government is liable, and the amount thereof, and whether any drafts drawn

by said agents have been protested by the De-partment; and if so, the amount.

The joint resolutions of Mr. Clarke, reaffirming the policy of non-intervention, were then

taken up.
Mr. Mason addressed the Senate at length, maintaining that the policy of the United States since the days of Washington, till the arrival of Kossuth, had been neutrality and non-intervention, and he argued that all reason and ex-

perience required a firm adherence to tha policy.

The subject was then postponed till next

Tuesday; and, after an Executive session,
The Senate adjourned. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Mr. Hale presented two petitions from the State of Pennsylvania, praying the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law. He said that he intended to have made some remarks upon the practical operation of the law, in order to show its administration by the ten-dellar judges who have been spawned into existence by it, but he would defer those remarks till the subject of the Compromise should be taken up.

A number of petitions and reports were pre-

Mr. Downs reported a bill to prevent mali-cious mischief and trespass upon private prop-erty in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Downs, from the committee to whom was referred the message of the President relative to the recent abstraction of public records, reported a bill providing punishment for

Mr. Downs also reported back House bill for the relief of James Lewis, and it was taken up

A discussion then took place upon what business should be taken up; and, in reply to a question from Mr. Mangum,
Mr. Hunter said that he would to-morrow

Mr. Hunter said that he would to-morrow urge upon the Senate the necessity of taking up and disposing, one way or the other, of the joint resolution making appropriations for the extension of the Capitol.

Mr. Bradbury insisted upon some action on the French Spoliation bill, and said on Monday he would move to take it up.

The bill fixing the apportionment of Representatives for California was then taken up and debated by Messrs. Rhett. Rusk, Davis, Bell, Dawson, Gwin, Weller, Shields, Bradbury,

Dawson, Gwin, Weller, Shields, Bradbury, Downs, Hale, and others.

The amendment pending was one increasing the whole number of Representatives to 234—thus giving South Carolina one for her fraction, and allowing California her present num-

Mr. Downs moved an amendment to the amendment, giving an additional member to Louisiana, for her fraction. During the debate, the Deficiency bill was

reported, with many amendments.

The debate continued till near four o'clock, when, without taking any question, the Senate HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

Mr. Walsh, of Maryland, asked the unanimous consent of the House to allow him to pre-sent the memorial of Henry May, Esq., of Baltimore, as the attorney of Samuel Dinsman, praying that the venue in the case between said Dinsman and Captain Wilkes might be county to the Criminal Court for said District.

Mr. Walsh stated that it was his general habit to present the memorials placed in his hands under the rule, but the character of the papers in this instance forbid that course, and required an open presentation here. They contained serious charges against a local court here, and no daylight could be too broad for such a matter.

power of Congress and the policy of passing the contemplated law, and the authority of Congress to pass it during time of peace; and con-cluded with reviewing its provisions, and ex-

Mr. Daniel, of North Carolina, proposed that

objected to, it took up the first business, being the reconsideration of the vote by which the bill

for the discipline of the navy was defeated.

Mr. Stuart, of Michigan, said when the bill

was under consideration, the previous question was moved, against the wish of the chairman

of the Committee on Naval Affairs, and the House was in this way forced to a vote. They

had been told, that as flogging had been abol-

ished, there existed no power to enforce disci-pline, and that as the fleet were about to sail

for Japan, it became necessary to pass the bill

both of which rumors he went on to show were

not founded in fact. He then contested the

pressing himself as opposed to vesting power in officers, who, however virtuous, acted upon their own uncontrolled opinion; and said he would regulate punishment in such a manner that a better description of sailors could be obtained for the naval service.

Mr. Millson, of Virginia, said he was not a member of the Naval Committee, and nothing nore could be expected from him than from other members of the majority. But being satisfied that the bill before the House, were it

referred to that committee, would not come back with any alteration, he had assumed the responsibility of preparing a substitute, which would meet the exigencies of the service and regulate naval discipline. He alluded to the power conferred by the bill on officers of the navy, and concluded with describing the pro-visions of the bill which he meant to propose in Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, expressed himself

in favor of recommitting the bill, and sending it the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, also submitted a substitute, which, with that of Mr. Millson, were ordered to be printed; and the Committee rose with the understanding that the sub-ject shall be taken up to-morrow, Mr. Bocock retaining the floor. The Committee then rose.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and again took up the Homestead bill. Mr. Dunham, of Indiana, who had the floor

from a former day, after alluding to the increasing prosperity and greatness of this counfree grant of public lands contemplated in the bill under consideration, to enable persons to provide for their growing families, and to open an asylum to the down-trodden nations of Eu-rope, and thus fulfilling the high destiny of the United States.

The Committee then rose, the Chairman reported progress, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7.

Mr. Florence, of Pennsylvania, presented the memorial of William Emmons, sen., praying for the extension of the patent of Uri Emmons, of the 25th of April, 1829, for a cylindrical pla-The Speaker proceeded to call for the re

the Committee on Public Lands.

mittee, reported a bill granting the right of way and a portion of the public lands towards way and a portion of the public lands towards opening a railroad from St. Mary's river, in Florida, to Pensacola bay.

Mr. Houston, of Alabama, said he understood that one of the sections of the bill went to modify the tariff, by abolishing the duty on

railroad iron, and called for the reading of the bill. He contended that the committee had no authority to report upon the subject, particularly as it has been referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, which has it under conderation.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, took a different

view of the rule, a strict adherence to which, he said, might prevent business of an important character from being taken up, because the committee to which it more immediately beonged did not think it proper to report.

Mr. Clingman coincided with the gentleman
rom Arkansas, and thought if the committee

referred to could report as to railroads, they might also with reference to railroad iron. Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, said such a construction as the gentleman from Arkansas had pla-ced upon the rule would lead to endless embarrassment, the reason for the rule being that

measures should not be improperly forced upon the House. *
The Speaker decided that it was not within the province of the Committee on Public Lands to report a bill embracing a section abolishing the duty on railroad iron, which belonged to the Committee of Ways and Means, and con-sequently that the bill was out of order. Mr. Clingman appealed against the decision

of the Chair.

Mr. Jones moved that the appeal lie on the table, upon which the yeas and nays were or-dered, and the decision was sustained—yeas 125, yeas 29.

The morning hour having expired, the House resolved itself into Committee on the state of the Union, and again took up the Homestead

fence of General Scott, who, he said, had been attacked on a former day by Mr. Cabell, of Florida, whom he eulogized at much length, defined the positions of the Whig and Democratic parties, and maintained that General Scott had pursued a consistent course, notwithstanding the treatment he received subsequent to his military career in Mexico.

Mr. Averett, of Virginia, followed, who said

Mr. Averett, of Virginia, followed, who said he did not come to Congress to engage in a war with reference to President-making, and went on to denounce the bill as, in its operations, calculated to bear unjustly upon all classes of the community, for the benefit of a particular class. He denied the right of Congress to pass an act of secession and to dissolve the Union, but contended that Virginia and the other old States retained all the rights which they exercised at the time the Government was organi-States retained all the rights which they exercised at the time the Government was organized. He thought the advocates of the bill had mistaken their course, when they introduced it as a measure for the benefit of the poor, who would be better satisfied if Congress kept their hands out of the pockets of the people.

Mr. Bocock, of Virginia, moved that, as his colleague [Mr. Averett] was unwell, the Committee rise, which being concerned in the

mittee rise; which being concurred in, the House resumed and adjourned, after refusing to take up the business on the Speaker's table, which was moved by Mr. Cobb, of Alabama.

A SLAVERY DECISION REVERSED. - A deci sion was made by Judge Scott, of the Supreme Court, at St. Louis, last week, which reverses directly divers decisions which have been made in various sections of the Union. Dreed Scott, a colored man and a slave, brought suit against frene Emerson, administratrix, for his freedom, on the ground that he had been earried by his master into a free State, and the Territories of the United States, and served him there. The master was an officer in the United States army, and carried this slave with him to the posts to which the orders of the Government required him to go, or stationed him at. The decision

house. Frequently had Elizabeth sat there before, her thoughts occupied with the world and
its pleasures, restless in body, and longing for
a voice to break the oppressive and monotonous
stillness. To a sanctified spirit, this divine
silence," as Charles Lamb calls it, gives an
added vitality to the spiritual life; to one
struggling to break the earth-fetters which
bind the soul to things of time, it may be sweet
and soothing; but the young and unsanctified
heart craves something by which to lift itself
heavenward; and we may possibly imagine,
that at the moment the voice of the aged patriarch was heard, Elizabeth's, imbued with
quickened aspirations, was peculiarly sensitive

quickened aspirations, was peculiarly sensitive to outward corresponding influences. Her at-tention was forcibly arrested. The preacher was a man of great natural abilities; he had been, but a few years before, gay and disbe-lieving; and the remembrance of his own weaknesses and infirmities doubtless led him into deep sympathy with the unregenerate. He evidently produced a great impression upon his hearers; but to Elizabeth his ministry was most striking-she wept, and was much agitatednext morning, the old man sat in her father's house, and prophecied of a great and import-ant calling she would be led into, her emotions were painfully affecting. Doubtless her vivid imagination also had been somewhat worked upon; and when she received the teachings of her friend, she could scarcely believe that a change had indeed been wrought in her heart. And that strange prophecy—what could it mean? Was she, the timid girl, to enter into scenes from which her whole nature shrank

The young girl was powerfully impressed. This was the second intimation implying that the dedication of her life was required for some with reluctance, and to consider her call theresibility.

In this peculiar state of mental feeling, she soon after visited London, that she might benified.

come acquainted with those amusements and fascinations the world offers to its votaries. Here, owing to the unrestricted intercourse the family had always maintained with those of all denominations, she found many friends, ready to minister to her pleasure in various ways. Intellectual companionship was very congenial to her, and this she had many opportunities of enjoying. Her diary at this period was an index of the conflicting thoughts which assailed her. On one page was written, "This morning, had a pleasant call on Mrs. Siddons, there on Mrs. The who give me some paint for the conflicting thoughts which assailed her. On one page was written, "This morning, had a pleasant call on Mrs. Siddons, there on Mrs. The who give me some paint for this event, she returned home; but a change had come upon her. She asserted her entire concurrence in the doctrine of the inward light, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The study of the Bible occupied much of her time, and eventually she declared her scarlet riding habit, refrained from music and dancing, smoothed out her faxen curls, and finally concealed them beneath the close cap and hand-terminations. come acquainted with those amusements and fascinations the world offers to its votaries. then on Mrs. T, who gave me some paint for the evening. I was painted a little, had my hair dressed, and did look pretty for me. Mr. Dpie, Amelia, and I, went to the opera concert. Ope, Amelia, and I, went to the operat concert.

I own I do love grand company. The Prince of Wales was there: and I feit more pleasure in looking at his royal highness than in seeing the rest of the company and hearing the music. Opposite to these remarks of the outward, is written, "Went to meeting in the evening. I have not enough allowence to describe the ser-

independent ef sects, he was a firm and conscientious disciple. Not that he was indifferent to the distinguishing traits of his own, but in his fatherly love he could not bear to crush that capacity for innocent enjoyment which is the delightful privilege of all young and untainted hearts, yet he wisely limited it; and Elizabeth's diary bore evident marks of these wholesome restrictions. On one page was written, "I have set my heart on attending the oratorio to-night; the Prince is to be there; it will be a grand sight, and there will be the

taught herself, without any assistance, yet found time to pursue her own studies with avidity. During the ensuing summer, the seven sisters travelled into Wales, with their father. They were a joyful party. Catharine, dignified, sedate, yet affable, was ever at her father's side, his friend and companion. Rachel and Elizabeth, closely united with deep and warm affections, enjoyed a delightful interchange of sentiment, and dwelt with pleasure on the beautiful scenery unfolding daily before them. For the latter, nature had peculiar charms-her interest in art was comparatively indifferent; her taste was pure, but not highly cultivated; and in her enthusiastic admiration of the works of God, she recognised no divine inspirations in

the results of genius.

To the girls, this journey was a perpetual enjoyment—every day varied by new scenes and associations. Scenes of historic interest, studied in the school-room, were now before them, distinct and real, and often, after visiting some old castle, the record of by-gone days, they would gather together in the evening and recall again and again the memories to which it had given rise. In some of the most roman-tic parts of Wales this was peculiarly the case. The seven sisters would congregate in the parlor of a rustic little inn, situated in the cool mountain regions, and, seated over a bright turf fire, would dwell upon the incidents of the turt fire, would dwell upon the incidents of the day with a zest only experienced by those who, for the first time, are gathering knowledge from actual observation. Sometimes an old Welsh harper would add to the interest of these social evenings; and the sisters, ever ready to please, would sing, in return, English ballads and songs, till the father's voice would warn them of the hour of rest.

It was during this time thay said a wint.

It was during this time they paid a visit, long afterward remembered by Elizabeth. A descendant of Barclay of Ury, a cousin to both their parents, was living in quiet retirement in a beautiful little action. might almost have deemed a sweet Sabbath of repose had lulled to a perpetual calm the thoughts of it possessor. Her voice, also, was in harmony with all her looks and movements—naturally sweet, yet subtle, it was like the fine fluctuated by this beloved sister. Many a wild blossom, twined carelesly amid the curls of some one of the joyous group, would be chosen as a botanical specimen, and, interesting them all in the research, bboks would be brought from the library, and houractevoted to the pursuit of determining its properties. Then then, carelessly pushing aside her flaxen curls, placed her riding-cap, which lay beside her, upon her head. Taking her ivory-handled whip, and gathering the folds of her dress about her, she said—

Mer; and in the long walks and drives which they frequently took, valuable were the lessons inculcated by this beloved sister. Many a wild descendant of Barciay of Ury, a cousin to both they frequently took, valuable were the lessons inculcated by this beloved sister. Many a wild the curls of in a beautiful little cottage at Colebrook Dale; and here the party arrived, after a pleasant but wearisome day. The hostess was a maiden lady, possessing singular beauty, and elegance of manner; her eyes were strikingly brilliant, and remarkable for their power of expression. Her figure was small, but perfect. She was of the old school, and had retained many of its forms and dignities; her politeness was genuine, and proven the party arrived, after a pleasant but wearisome day. The hostess was a maiden lady, possessing singular beauty, and elegance of manner; her eyes were strikingly brilliant, and remarkable for their power of expression. Her figure was small, but perfect. She was of the old school, and had retained many of its forms and dignities; her politeness was genuine, and horractering the houghts exhanced by this beloved sister. Many a wild descendant of Barciay of Ury, a cousin to both their parents, was living in quiet retirement their parents, was living in quiet retirement their par character to her appearance. To Elizabeth, she was a person rich in attractions; she had early renounced the world and its fascinations, having left Bath, where her mother and sister resided, to dwell in this quiet and congenial

To the girls the visit was pleasant, from its contrast with the scenes through which they had been passing. They took a general interest in everything connected with their heretofore unknown cousin, and were charmed by the urbanity of her manners; but when Eliza-beth entreated her father for permission to remain a few days, they were surprised at her willingness to give up the pleasures of travel-ling, for what they considered an inactive re-pose. The indulgent parent, however, con-sented, and they left her to her choice, one of the four laughingly remarking that she was

the "Lost Pleiad" since they were no longer seven. "And she is the brightest star in our constellation," said Catharine, after they had

time, every day becoming more and more at tached to her.

Among the Quakers residing in the neighborhood, she found many persons suited to her, both in taste and principle. A similarity of feeling prevailed among them, and their pleas-ures were simple and refined. That she sometimes wearied of the sameness, and longed to mingle with the world, is true; but the influences around her were so gentle, that her bet ter impulses were imperceptibly strengthened, and aspirations for higher good than the world affords were often felt. Her mornings were devoted to self-culture; a drive in the old-fashoned pony chaise was varied occasionally by a ride on horseback; and in the afternoon, she would visit with her cousin; for, beloved and admired, she was the object of much kindly

dumb, and feet to the lame."

The young girl was powerfully impressed

independent of sects, he was a firm and consci- their hours of recreation. Young, beautiful, veil she used in former times to twist in the THE CONSTITUTION-THE COMPROMISE, &c.